(c) whether the managing Director has written a letter to All Air India Employees in this regard and if so, what has been the response to that letter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (c) Compared to several international carriers, staff strength of Air India is more because unlike other international carriers, Air India does not give certain jobs on contract to outside parties. A review of the manpower requirement is undertaken periodically. There has been a gradual reduction in the total staff strength of Air-India in the last few years in spite of increased operations.

The Managing Director, Air-India has addressed a letter to all employees on 9th February, 1988 conveying the plans, hopes and anxieties of the Corporation and the direction proposed to be taken in various matters pertaining to the future and well-being of Corporation. Employees' cooperation has been sought in various areas pertaining to their sphere of activity.

Meningitis in Orissa

1559. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 17th February, 1983 wherein it has been stated that Meningities had claimed more than 74 lives in Orissa;

(b) whether this disease has taken the epidemic shape in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there had been cases of same disease in other States also during the last one year; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, the Government has seen the news item.

(b) and (c) No. Seasonal outbreaks occur in each year practically in every State.

(d) Meningitis occurs as a sporadic disease in different parts of the country in the dry and cold months and cases have occured during the last year in different parts of the country.

(e) The Government is taking appropriate measures to monitor and control of the disease to monitor and control of the disease by detecting the cases of Meningitis and treating them with proper anti-biotics such as pencillin/Chloramphenicol etc. to reduce mortality.

Need of an executive aircraft

1560. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government needs an executive aircraft to fulfil its vital requirements in the area of small aircrafts; and

(b) if so, what are the steps taken to fulfil this need and details of the foreign collaboration being sought in this area?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to acquire any executive aircraft for the Government in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.